

DELEGATE PROFILE

Surgeon/Trauma Surgeon



PROFILE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVE

Australian Red Cross (ARC) has a long history of working with its Red Cross Movement Partners (the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent (Federation) and National Societies) to support response operations for emergencies or protracted crises. One of the ways we do this is by recruiting, training and deploying humanitarian aid workers (delegates) into field operations led by either the ICRC or Federation.

The Surgeon, as part of an ICRC or National Society hospital team, performs safe surgical procedures for emergency and elective surgical interventions usually for trauma and weapon wounded individuals. The Surgeon works in assisted or ICRC or National Society independent hospital structures, regularly in limited resources settings and challenging security environments. The Surgeon may lead the mobile surgical team deployed in certain contexts, when required.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Performs and supervises emergency and elective surgical procedures, in line with internationally/ICRC recognised standards, on evidence-based practices, and ensures adequate patient post-operative follow-up
- Responsible for the clinical management of patients within the hospital in collaboration with the Head Nurse, including compliance to the admission criteria
- Ensures precise, clear and timely medical documentation
- Ensures that all required resources are available to conduct safe surgical procedures
- In collaboration with the other members of the surgical team, provides technical advice and supports local counterparts to maintain/develop the local capacities and maintain/reach international standards
- Regularly reviews the contingency plan and other plans of action for the hospital in collaboration with the hospital management team and (sub) delegation
- Coordinates the triage and management of patients in the event of mass casualties, together with the Head Nurse
- Consults with the Health Unit in Geneva for extremely difficult cases warranting a second opinion
- Always remains conscious of the limitations (human and material resources) and seeks advice when required

KEY KNOWLEDGE, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in medicine with current professional registration to practice as a medical practitioner in Australia
- Completion of surgical training in general surgery attaining (and current) Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) with two years' experience post fellowship completion
- ATLS or ETC certification or ATLS or ETC-refresher course (within the last 5 years), or commitment to complete before being sent on assignment
- Attended ICRC War Surgery Seminar (to be arranged once recruited to Delegate roster before an ICRC mission)
- Significant experience in general surgery, particularly in traumatology, including basic treatment of fractures
- Competent to perform life-saving surgery with limited resources including cesarean sections
- Professional experience in an international humanitarian context or low-income countries, experience with Red Cross and Red Crescent an asset
- Good organisational skills, capacity to manage competing workload and work within a team
- Able to capacity build and supervise local surgical staff
- Able to work under pressure in potentially dangerous environments
- Excellent communication skills, including fluent spoken and written English
- Good command of French, Spanish, Arabic or Russian is a strong asset (preferred)
- Strong computer literacy including competence with the Microsoft Office Suite
- Current driver's license and the ability to confidently drive a manual vehicle
- Strongly motivated by humanitarian work

BEHAVIOURAL COMPETENCIES

- Culturally competent with excellent ability to work effectively as part of multicultural teams and engage in a respectful, considerate manner with local staff and communities who have varied ethnic and gender diversity
- Well-developed ability to analyse situations, make decisions and prioritise accordingly
- A sensitive and respectful approach to engaging with vulnerable individuals and communities
- Extremely flexible and adaptable, comfortable complying with protocols and regulations set to mitigate risks
- Ability to work in a challenging and demanding environment or unstable security conditions while keeping a consistent, courteous and positive attitude towards others